

# Sri Ratna Kim Suro

The Legend of an Indian Princess in Korea

BY

N. Parthasarathi

GRAPHICS & ILLUSTRATIONS

Soumitra Dasgupta



## DRAMATIS PERSONAE



### SRIRATNA

Princess of Ayutthya, daughter of King Padmasen and Queen Indumatī; later called Queen Hui Hwang-Ok.



### KING KIM SURO

Believed to be a descendant from heaven and born out of a golden egg; founder of Gaya Kingdom with Queen Srirratna.



### TALHAE

Anti-hero of the story; also believed to be born out of a golden egg.



### SAGE SATYAMUNI

Omniscient royal sage of King Padmasen; mentor of Princess Srirratna.



### BUDDHISEN

Buddhist son of King Padmasen and Queen Indumatī and brother of Srirratna; accompanies Srirratna to



### TIGER

Childhood friend of Princess Srirratna.



### CHOLA KING

Brother of Queen Indumatī.



### JAHN

Brother of King Kim Suro; also born out of a golden egg; can turn himself into any shape at will.



### YU-CHIN

The Oracle at Wanwa village.



## **SRI RATNA & KIM SURO**

THE LEGEND OF AN INDIAN PRINCESS IN KOREA

STORY

N. PARTHASARATHI

GRAPHICS & ILLUSTRATIONS

SOUMITRA DASGUPTA



NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA



ONCE UPON A TIME, Princess Sri Ratna from the  
holy land of Ayodhya in the north of India travelled  
thousands of miles to south of Korea and married  
King Kim Suro Wang.

Together they founded the Gaya Kingdom in Korea.

This is the story of the fascinating legend of  
the Indian princess Sri Ratna in Korea...







Two thousand years ago, Padmasen ruled as the King of Kosala in present-day India. He was a direct descendent of King Sri Rama and people believed in his divine authority to rule them. He was brave, kind and religious. In this kingdom everybody lived happily. The Gods were pleased with the King.

His Queen Indumati was loved and respected by the people of the Kingdom. She was strikingly beautiful and kind-hearted. She was the sister of Karikalan Cholan, the great ruler of the Tamil Kingdom, south of Vindhya Mountain.



**CHOLA** dynasty was very wealthy and had a rich culture of dance, music and art. They were masters of the martial art kalari-payattu. They were brilliant ship makers and used their vast knowledge of the sea to travel far and wide for business.



WANWA

## KOREA

During the time King Padmasen ruled the Kosala Kingdom in Bharata Varsha (India), thousands of miles away, there were several villages present-day **KOREA** and these villages were adjacent to the SILLA and WANWA kingdoms.



A BRONZE BELL HUNG IN  
FRONT OF THE KING  
PADMASSEN'S PALACE  
GATE for anyone who needed  
urgent help from him. Such  
occasions were rare though, due to the  
prosperity of the society. However, today  
as the sun rose, the bell of justice had  
been sounded.

DHONG  
DHONG

KILL! KILL THE BEAST

KILL! KILL! KILL! KILL!



PHON  
DHONG

"Your majesty, late last night  
a **ferocious tiger** entered  
my cowshed and killed my  
cow. Please save us before  
things go out of hand!"



The king was concerned that the tiger would come back to harm.



The king decided to go after the tiger. The king was equally skilled and his horse manoeuvred the obstacles tactfully and chased the tiger. Their game of 'hide and seek' continued until the King managed to shoot an arrow at the beast.

KILL! KILL!



Padmasen was now on his own. He followed a trail of blood on the leaves and reached a dense area of the forest. He knew how dangerous a wounded tiger could be. His entourage had lost him because of the speed with which he moved through this thick forest. He was also thirsty and desired some water.



Suddenly the forest started opening up and he could see a beautiful lake nearby.

At that instant, in the crystal clear water that looked like a mirror, his eyes glimpsed a reflection of the tiger sitting on the branch of the tree just above. He quickly sprang back but at the same moment, **the tiger leapt on him with all its might.** The tiger's face was close to the king's own face.





And in no time, its sharp teeth had sunk in deeply into his shoulder. He felt his right shoulder being torn away from his body. At lightning speed, he pulled out his dagger and thrust it into the tiger's neck. He could feel that the beast was howling with pain.





As the spicy aroma of freshly cooked food and herbs entered through his nostrils, Padmasen opened his eyes slowly. He took a moment to realize that he was still alive. How could he still be alive? Was it all a nightmare? He remembered his left shoulder being torn away with full force by the tiger. He touched the spot on his one shoulder. It was a little painful but to his surprise his shoulder was still there. At the shoulder joint, there was a bandage with a lot of medicinal leaves that smelled pungent.

"How are you feeling now,  
My Brave King!"



The King turned his head towards the voice. He was happy and pleasantly surprised to see the Royal sage Satyamuni close by.





The King tried to stand up. But the sage placed his palm on his right shoulder and stopped him. "Oh, the mighty King, you need to relax for

a while. I have applied potent medicines to your wound, I was lucky to find your torn arm not far from you".

"Oh, Great Sage, I am so thankful to you.

"Oh, mighty King, the time has not come for you to depart this life yesterday, nor was it time for the tiger. Your dagger had pierced through the neck and had cut off its vital blood flow. The poor beast would have lost its life if I had delayed reaching the place even by a moment".





## Satyamuni forecasting the future

"You still have a long way to live. You have not completed your tasks on this earth. You need to father an heir to your throne and, more importantly, your queen Indumati needs to give birth to an angelic daughter".

"Holy one, I am sure you remember that I already have a little son who will in due course take over the reign".



"No, my King, I have not forgotten your son Buddhisen. You may want to give him the Kingdom. But he does not want it. He is in search of a larger Kingdom, the Kingdom of Peace. He will be a follower of Buddha. Your Kingdom has no meaning for him".

"Please do enlighten me, why would my daughter be so special".



"My dear King, who can change fate which is already decided in Heaven? One thing more, Please remember, when your beautiful daughter is born, in nine moons to this day, name her "Sri Ratna". She will stay with her mother for five rainy seasons. Then, please bring her and leave her in my Ashram. I will eagerly await her arrival."



SRI RATNA!  
SRI RATNA!  
SRI RATNA!

"Now you must depart, mighty King. Once you reach your palace, the queen would have no cause for concern about your health."



## SILLA AND WANWA KINGDOM



During the time, King Padmasen ruled the Kosala Kingdom, thousands of miles away, there were several villages that had never seen a king in their lives.

These villages were adjacent to the Silla and Wanwa Kingdom

Silla Kingdom



Wanwa Kingdom



The people here lived a simple life. They cultivated rice and barley. Good rains fell during the season. They were happy and prosperous. Any dispute that arose between people was resolved by the village chieftain. People accepted his decision with great respect.

**ADOKAN, THE WISEST ELDER, WAS  
THE LEADER OF ALL CHIEPTAINS OF THESE VILLAGES**



**When people fell ill or when they  
needed to know their future**

they went to Yu-chin, the Mutagan (the Shaman). Yu-chin was warm and helpful to everyone. She had sharp bright eyes that expressed intelligence and she empathized well with those who sought her help.

The Sun God was the most revered as it was the most powerful symbol of life they could see every day.

Sanshin, the Mountain God was very important in their lives as most of their land was covered by mountains. People of these villages lived longer than those in the neighbouring kingdoms. They attributed it to the grace of Turtle which symbolized longevity. They made Turtle sculptures of stone and prayed regularly.





But their happiness had been rudely disrupted over the last three rainy seasons. Incessant rain had flooded all their lands. Deep winter had engulfed their lands for months. All the stock of rice the villagers had maintained had slowly vanished. There was nothing much left to eat. They did not understand why this had happened to them.

They approached the Mutagan. Yu-chin told them that Pungshin, the Wind God was angry. The village folks had not prayed to him properly and had forgotten to offer him food during the rituals. As advised by her, all the villagers offered special prayers and prepared rice cakes for him.



But still the Wind God refused to forgive them. In desperation, the villagers turned to the sea. With their arrows and spears they tried to catch fish and crabs. But whenever they approached the sea, high winds would start blowing and a huge storm developed.

Instead of catching fish, the village folk found it difficult to save themselves from the

## WRATH OF PUNGSH







## birth of talHae



Meanwhile, the Queen Hamdal of Wanwa had conceived and the birth of an heir to the throne was eagerly anticipated. Instead of giving birth to a baby, she laid an egg. The King was perplexed. He summoned his advisers and sought their counsel.

The advisers were unanimous in their opinion that it was a bad omen for the Kingdom and the egg had to be destroyed. They tried to break the egg. The shell was very hard and with great difficulty they managed to crack it.



GADHAA AAMM  
GADHAA AAMM

To their surprise, there emerged a boy who quickly grew three feet tall and he could instantly talk. As the boy emerged from a hard shell, he was named TALHAE. They went to the Mutagan to seek his advice.



The Mutagan told the King

"Talhae would be King one day- not of Wanwa but !"





Hearing this, the king placed TALHAE in a large boat along with a wooden chest filled with gold and precious stones and set it afloat in the sea. As the boat drifted, a yellow dragon emerged from the sea and protected the boat all the way till the boat reached the sea-shores at the border of the Silla Kingdom with the Kharak villages. Although, he was only three feet. Talhae had enormous strength. He had great skills in sword fighting and he also possessed magical powers of metamorphosis.

**On reaching the shore, the Dragon told Talhae,**

"You are to become a King. You will have to find your Kingdom on your own. Heaven has its own way of doing what is right. You will survive on your own".

"I'll will be a King, the biggest king on Earth".







Talhae confidently moved into the Tohamsan Forest and established his residence in a large cave. Then, he quietly paid a visit to the Kharak villages. He learned that the village elders were praying for a divine king. He waited for an opportunity.

Meanwhile, the people of the villages profusely thanked the God of the Heaven. With great enthusiasm, they started preparations to go to the Kuji Mountain top. As the evening grew, they slowly marched to the Kuji mountain to welcome their new King. At the mountain top, they set up a huge bonfire and kept dancing and singing.



"They are the people of this land, where are they going? Let me follow them".

21









**The people of  
Silla Kingdom,  
still in trouble,  
seek advice of  
YU-CHIN**

**"We have nothing to eat, our children are hungry, we beg of you. (God Deveendran), Lord of the Heavens, please send us a Sovereign, a King who can save our lives with his divine powers, who would treat us as his children, who would lead us and build a Kingdom, Oh, God please listen to our prayers".**

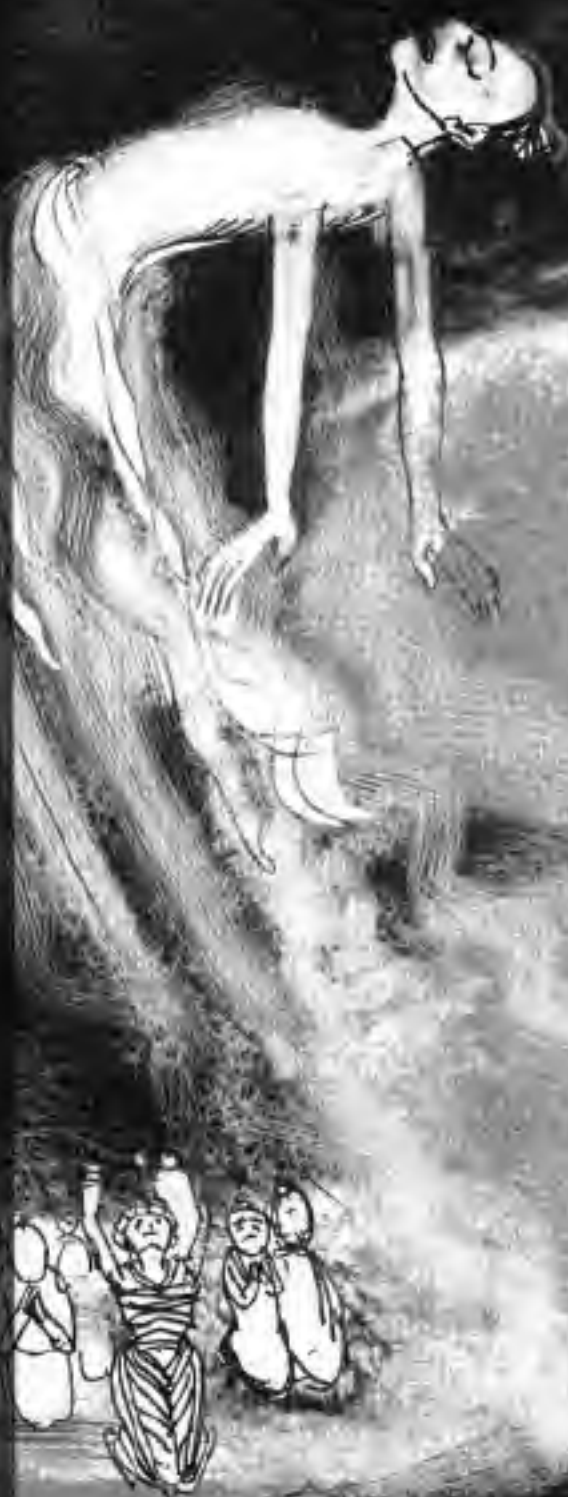


*They set up a prayer meeting near the sea.*

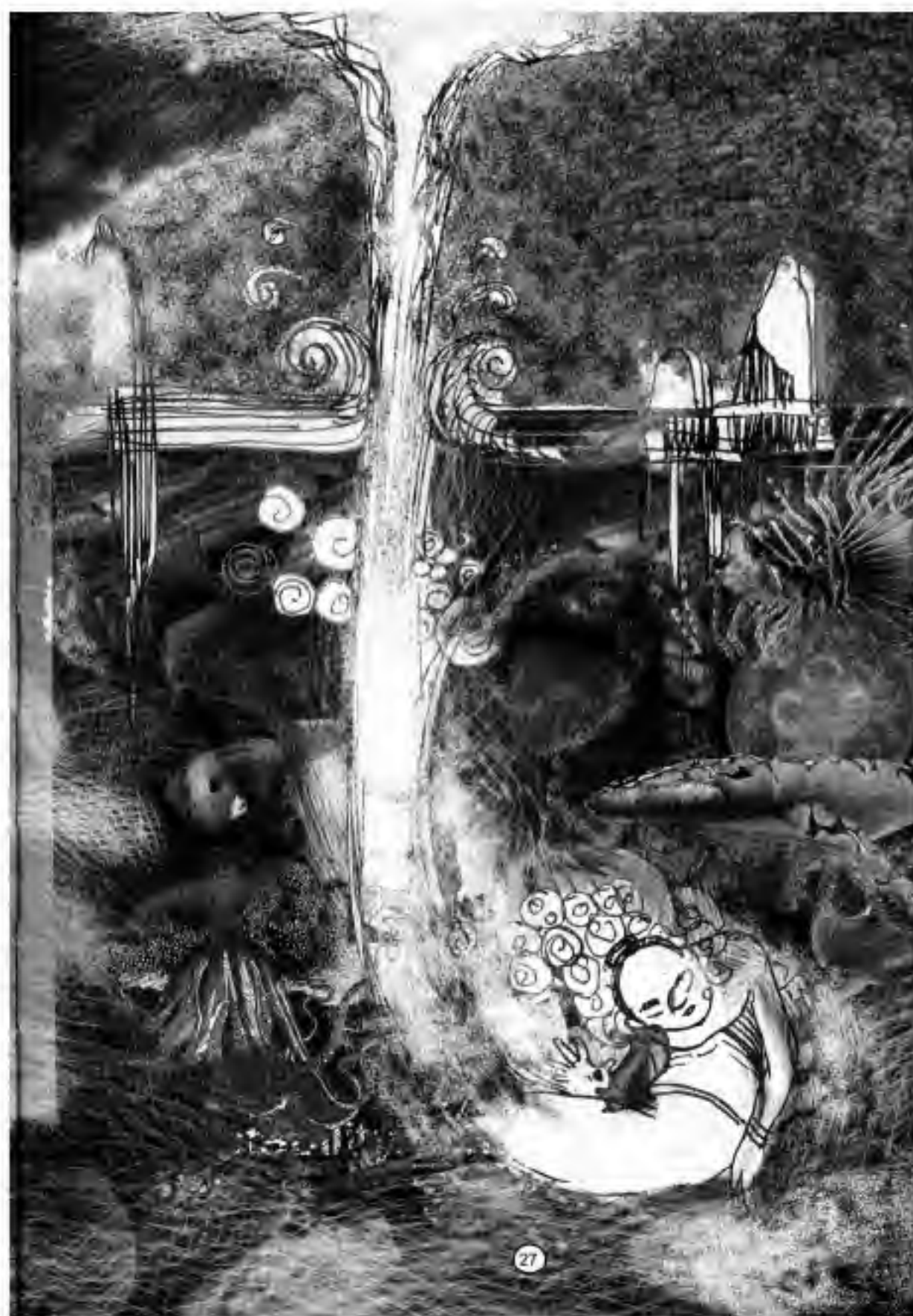


*Yu-chin, the Mutagan, summoned all her energies to  
connect with Pungshin.*

Pungshin was invoked against his will which angered him. He suddenly assumed tremendous strength and in the blink of an eye, picked up chieftain Adokan's handsome son, and lifted the boy into the sky as if he were a smidgen of cotton. At the same speed, he brought him down into the sea and went deeper and deeper to the netherworld. The boy was never seen again.









A few weeks later, in desperation, all the people led by Adokan assembled on the Kuji Mountain and prayed.

"God of Heaven, please help us",  
"Oh, God, look at our plight",  
"We have nothing to eat, our children  
are hungry, we beg of you".







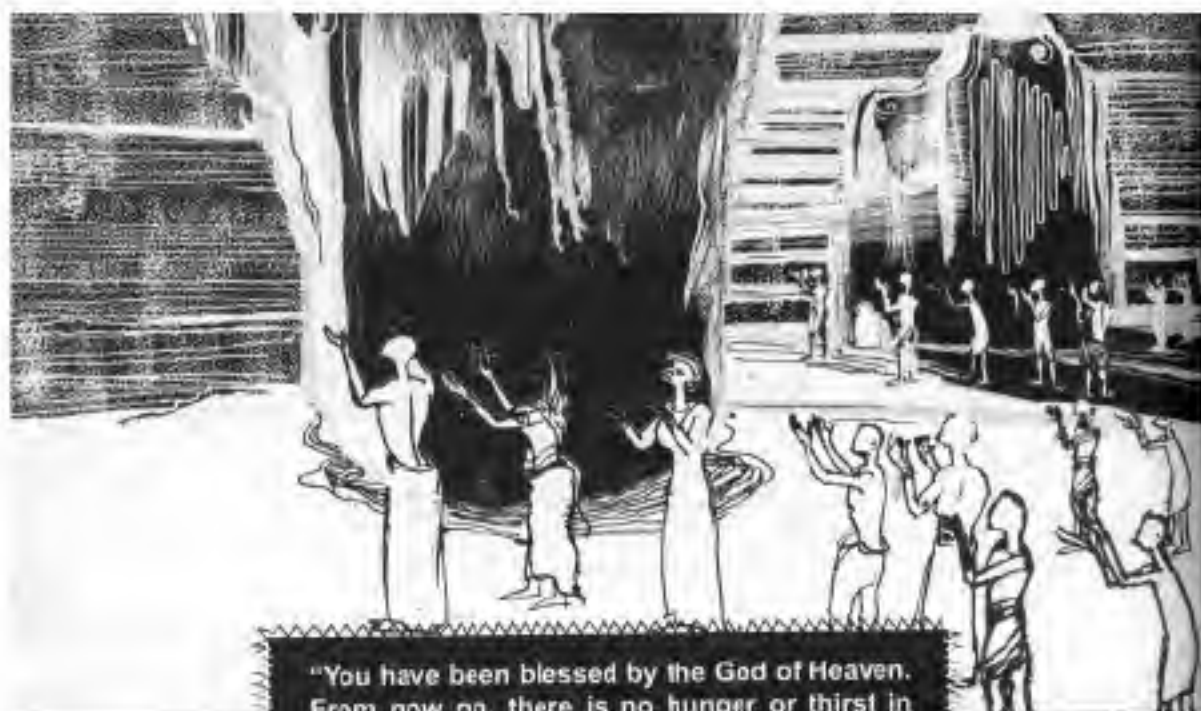


“ I will arrive tonight when the moonlight is at its peak. All of you walk up to the peak of the Kuji Mountain. Before you start, eat well. I know that you have stopped going to the seashore. Go there today. You will not be disappointed.”

Everybody started moving down the Kuji Mountain towards the shore of the Blue Sea.

They approached the sea shore with trepidation. They had not seen such a calm sea in a long time.





"You have been blessed by the God of Heaven. From now on, there is no hunger or thirst in your land. Please pick up the fishes and crabs. These are my offerings to you as you have suffered enough".





It was a miracle. **IT WAS THE WATER GOD THAT HAD SPOKEN TO THEM.** They could not believe their luck. When they drew water from the wells, the well water had suddenly turned sweet. They all had a feast to remember.



With great enthusiasm, the people started preparations to go to the Kuji Mountain top to welcome their new King. They set up a huge bonfire there and kept dancing and singing.

Suddenly, through the clear sky, a powerful lightning struck appearing like a long branch of a tree and its tip almost touched the top of the Kuji mountain. At the tip was tied a long chord which slowly started descending. All the villagers kept watching with amazement.

Now in the moonlight, they could make out a **golden chest attached to the bottom of the rope which kept slowly descending**. As the golden chest touched the ground, all the villagers led by Adokan surrounded the chest. Anxiety and curiosity were writ large on their faces.

**Adokan cautiously approached the chest, and slowly opened the lid.**



*There was neither a King nor a baby inside. Instead, there were six beautiful golden orbs nestled in a basket. They were luminous on the surface and radiated a warm golden glow.*



"Round like the moon, glows like the sun, we don't know how the eggs would open. Who is the King? Is there a Queen?"



We don't know how the golden eggs would be opened".



SUDDENLY THEY HEARD THE SAME HEAVENLY VOICE  
THEY HAD HEARD BEFORE.

"I have now arrived. I have with me my five brothers. Take us to the house of Adokan. Early in the morning take the chest and place it in an open space so that the first rays of Sun God will fall upon us. Keep singing and dancing"





While the attention of all the villagers was focused on the event, Talhae, waiting for this opportunity hiding behind a red berry bush-- quietly reached the chest. He took out an egg and lobbed it hard with all his power...

...then he jumped into the chest, quietly assumed the shape of a golden egg and sat there comfortably.



In the sun ray, one golden egg broke open.

## "I AM YOUR KING"

announced the divine one. Meanwhile, the other five eggs had hatched and four of them looked similar to the divine one.

The King, who was the first born and the tallest, was named Kim Suro. He grew rapidly he was seven feet tall. Everyone urged Kim Suro to take over the reins of the Kharak Kingdom

### BUT, THE ONE WHO EMERGED FROM THE LAST EGG WAS NOT HAPPY

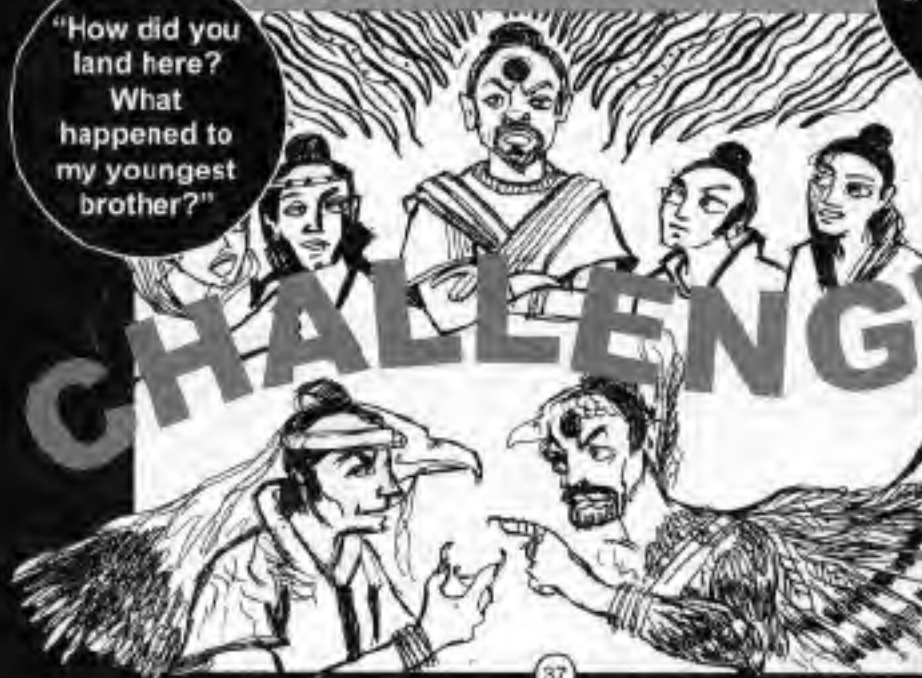


You can't be our brother, who are you?

"I am Talhae", I have come today to challenge Kim Suro to rule this Kingdom.

"How did you land here?  
What happened to my youngest brother?"

"Ah, your youngest brother! I threw him into the blue sea."



King Kim Suro was agitated. But being a King, a challenge was a challenge. He had to accept and fight the metamorphosis battle.

Talhae  
changed into  
a falcon

Kim Suro changed  
into an eagle.

Talhe  
into a Sparrow

Kim Suro changed  
into a hawk

into a  
Wolf

Kim Suro changed in to  
majestic Golden Dragon. It was  
twenty feet tall and fire spewed out  
of its nostrils.

**Talhae accepted his defeat**



# DEFEAT

"Talhae , my dear friend  
don't get upset.  
The day you will win over  
your ego, anger and  
jealousy, that day you will  
become the finest king on  
this earth."

ARE YOU MY  
FRIEND?  
THESE WORDS  
ARE MEANINGLESS  
TO ME....

# KIM SURO DREAMS OF AYODHYA PRINCESS

**Kim Suro was standing on the Kuji Mountain.** Slowly a small mountain of dark clouds covered the Sun and it started raining. As the rain slowed, the Sun had once again emerged to brighten the earth. Kim Suro could see a beautiful rainbow being formed in the horizon.



Lo and behold! - from a nearby tree, a beautiful peacock leaped to the ground and started dancing joyously. A peacock dancing happily with all its colorful plumes spread like a charming fan was breathtaking. He stood there captivated.



The peacock looked pleased when the King was looking appreciatively at its grand display and its golden crest stiffened with pride.





**The dance came to an end.** As the King kept watching, the majestic peacock slowly turned into a **beautiful maiden sitting on a tiger**. He had never seen such a stunning beauty. No one in his Kingdom had such features. She was tall and had large beautiful black eyes and a sculpted body. In the morning rays of the Sun, she appeared like a beautiful Jade statue radiating golden yellow glow. She must have descended from heaven, he thought. **"Hwang ok"**, the yellow jade, **"Hwang ok Huh"** that is her name, he thought.





### **He wanted to approach her**

and enquire about her whereabouts but his feet were glued to the ground and he could not move. He tried to speak but no words came out of his mouth.

He remained mesmerized. The maiden slowly turned into the peacock again, moved closer to him and whispered in his ears.

"I am the princess of Ayodhya, from the central Kingdom of Kosala, a far away land and I will be your Queen. Please wait for me. You and I together, that is our destiny". The peacock leapt on to a nearby tree and disappeared in an instant.





**"Wait. Wait",** Kim Suro had regained his voice. He opened his eyes. He was looking at the ceiling of his sleeping chamber.

He realized it was a dream but he knew that it was a message from the heaven. He wanted to share his dream with his closest brother Il-Jin. He could not wait. He woke up Il-Jin and told him about his dream in great details.



**The vision of a strange woman proclaiming herself to be his future queen leaves Kim Suro shocked and mesmerised. Unable to make out what it all means, he visits Yu Chin for advice.**

"The great counsel, what does this all may mean? Why do I feel a strange pull in my heart?"

"Dear King, do not fear or doubt these happenings. This is all for the prosperity of this land. The Princess of Ayodhya must become your queen, sooner rather than later, to bring peace and happiness on this land."



"Oh!, how relieved do I feel now! For the greater good, I will seek the hand of the Princess!!



I feel enchanted with the thought of the virtuous lady. Am I already in love?

Kim Suro and Il-Jin are  
seen seated in front  
of a painting of the  
Princess



"With my own thought and image, I have created this image of that lovely Princess of Ayodhya. Not for me really, but for my people and for my land. I direct you to go to Ayodhya to seek the hand of the Princess. Will you? You have divine powers to transform into any being."

"she is a rare one. She rides a tiger. Befriend the tiger first."

"But how will I recognise her?"

"This is my great privilege, my brother. I will not assume human form till I have secured the future queen of our land."



Kim Suro hugs  
Il-Jin, who takes  
the form of a crane  
and flies away.

Il-Jin had never seen such a beautiful world.

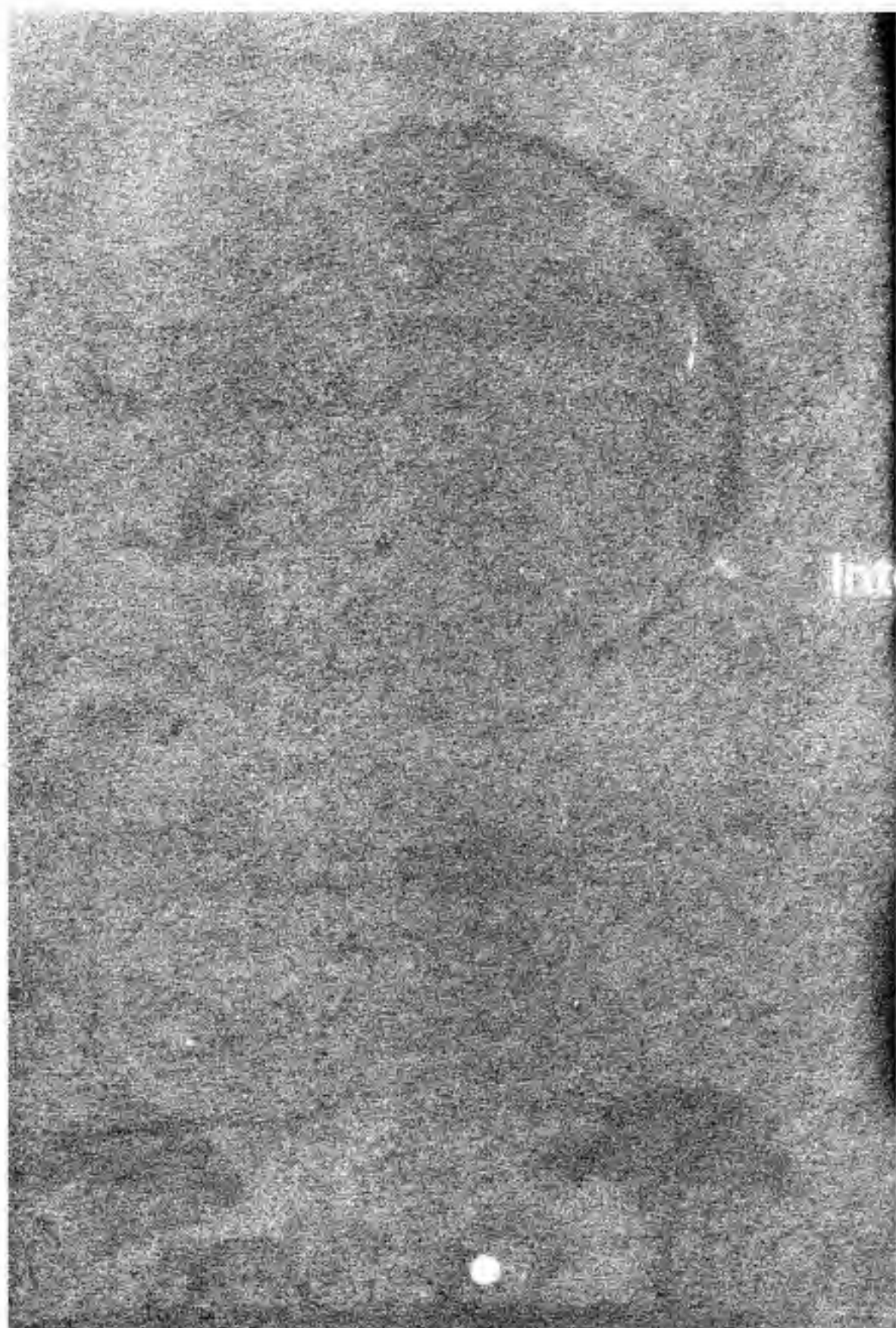


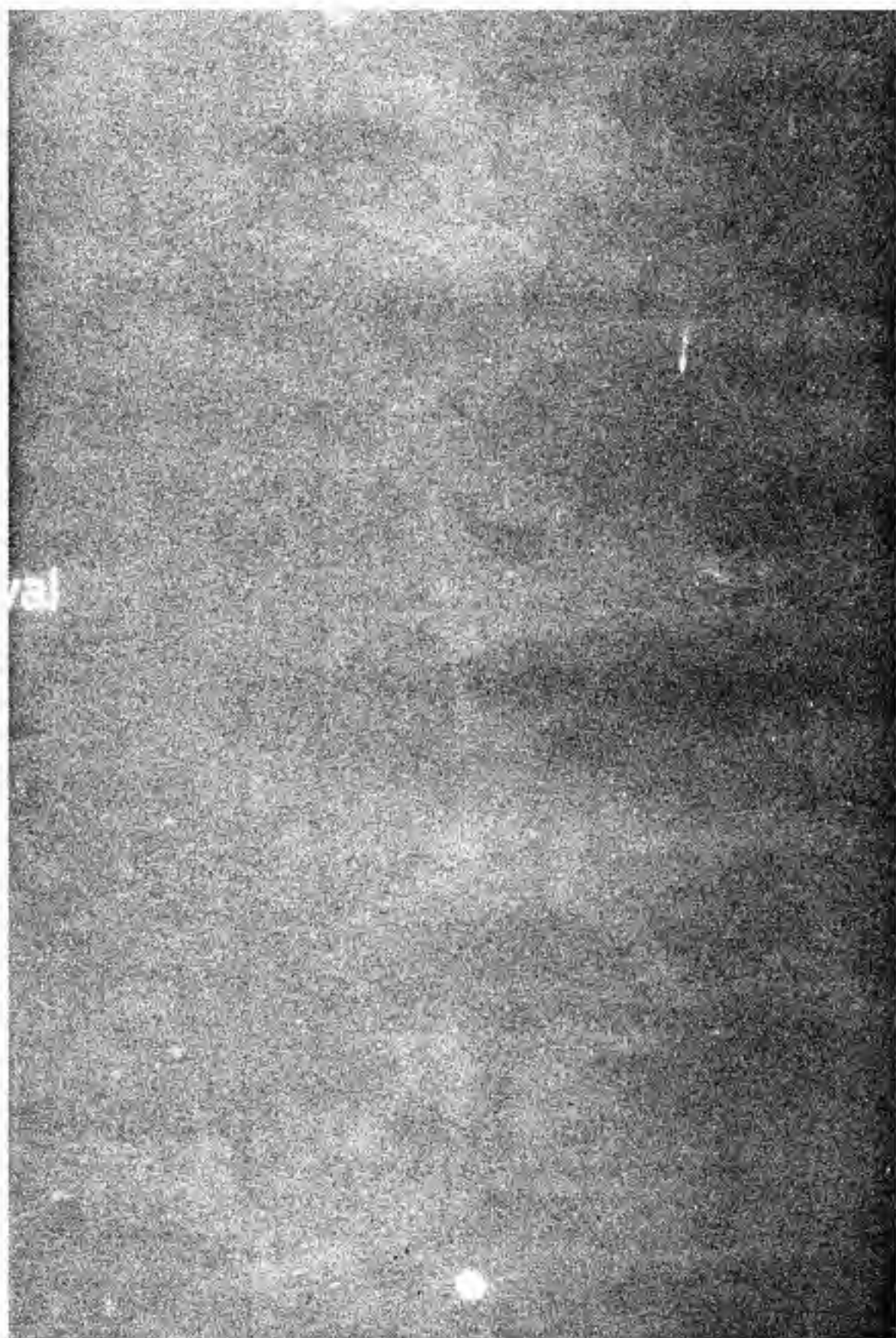


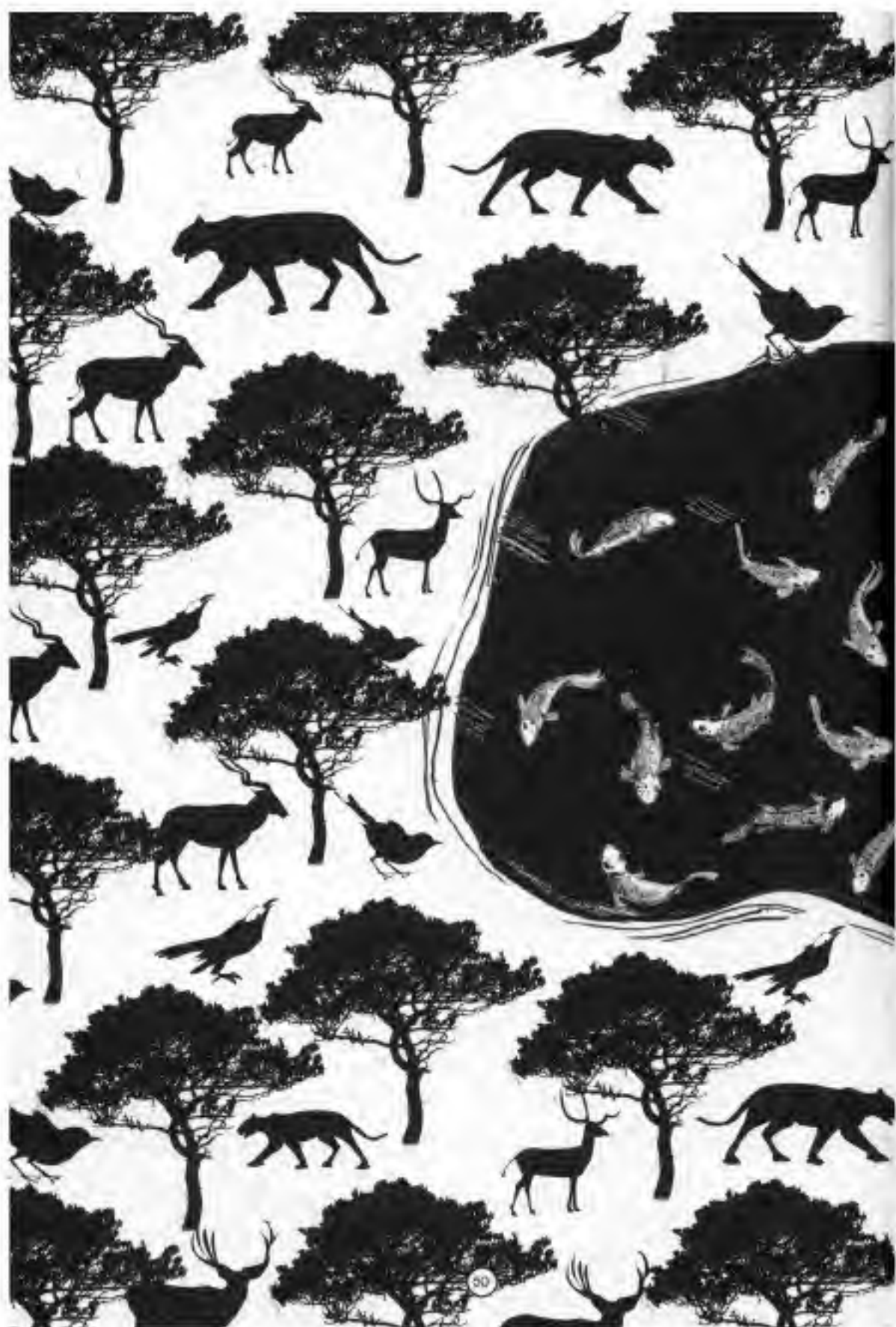


**Il Jin approaches Tapovan,  
the land of Ayodhya...**













...and is  
mesmerised  
to see the  
grand view of  
peaceful  
co-existence  
and love  
among all  
species







As he kept watching, from the Eastern end walked in a majestic tiger. Riding on the tiger was a beautiful maiden, the likes of whom he had never seen in his life. She would have seen around fifteen rainy seasons. The girl was a sculpted goddess he had imagined in his thoughts. Il-Jin had no doubt that she was of royal descent.

'Hwang ok Huh!!!', he exclaimed, pleased that he had found the one he was looking for.



Il-Jin kept coming to the place for many days.  
One day, sighting the tiger all alone, he tries to  
be friendly with him and approaches him.

"Not so  
stranger, my  
friend, I have  
already seen  
many sunsets  
and sunrises in  
this forest."

"I want to know  
about that lovely lady, who is the  
Princess of Ayodhya."

How propitious will  
be the divine union  
of Kim Suro and  
Hwang ok Huh!

"Who are you? You  
seem to be a stranger  
to the place?"

"What do you want?"

"Whatever  
be your purpose,  
since no one can dare  
to harm her, let me tell you  
about her.

Born to King Padmasen  
and Queen Indumati,  
she has been nurtured  
under the care of

Sage Satyamuni in this Ashram, where I als  
have been brought up. A quick  
learner, Satyamuni taught her statecraft and the  
finer skills of archery, sword fight, horse  
riding, chariot racing, swimming. She has  
excelled in mathematics, logic and the  
study of planetary positions and their  
influence on people."

"What else? Does she  
have any brother or  
sister?"

"Yes, her brother is Bhuddisen,  
who is a Buddhist monk."

"Meet her under the banyan tree on the fourth  
day from today. She paints as if she were  
Nature's second sister."

"Can you help me  
meet her? Does  
she know  
painting?"

On the Tiger's advice, Il Jin meets the Princess under the banyan tree. Sriratna was not surprised to see him as no body would come near her without the consent of the Tiger.





Slowly, with every detail that he could muster, Il-Jin described the Sal tree on the Kuji mountain. In no time, he could grasp the proficiency of the princess. To Il-Jin, it appeared as if the leaves were quivering because of the slow breeze. As the princess remained absorbed in her painting, Il-Jin started describing the features of his brother. No doubt it took some time but the painting was breathtakingly beautiful. Sri Ratna kept staring at it.

"Greetings from a stranger from a far off Kingdom, princess",

"Greetings to you with respect",

Can you paint without seeing the object?"

It should be fun. Let us try it",

The princess is definitely looking at my brother.





"O, dear Princess, the man whom you just painted, is my brother, and a divine king. He has sent me to seek your hand as his queen. Will you?"

"What are you talking about? How can I think about somebody, whom I have never met or seen and who has never met or seen me?"

"O, virtuous Princess, both of you live in distant lands. How can you both have ever met. I come here because union of Kim Suro and you is destined and divine."

"I can not accept it, till Kim Suro has himself asked my hand and my good parents have consented to it."







As Sri Ratna puts the painting in a corner in her room, she feels as if some one was around and wanted to talk to her. She looks at the painting. It seems, Kim Suro had stepped out of the frame holding a hand to her saying"

"I do not know, who you are? But you seem so loveable and warm. I leave this all to my destiny and my parents. I can not understand this pull in my heart"

"My, divine Princess, your parents would be aware that our union is pre-ordained by God. If I could, I would not have missed the opportunity to come to the holy land of Ayodhya and personally seek your hand from your parents. Please seek the blessings from your parents and start your journey. I eagerly await your arrival"



Next Morning Sriratna was in garden

"Princess", Il-Jin chirped again. Distracted from her reverie, the princess looked up. But Il-Jin was now standing next to her.

"Princess, can you see the golden spiral choker around my neck. Could you please unlock it and remove the roll of parchment from the choker and open it."



The princess raised her eyebrows as to question him but still she went ahead. She couldn't believe her eyes



"This is what my brother King Kim Suro painted after seeing you in his dream.

The heavenly God said that the princess from Ayodhya would come to Kharak to marry King Kim Suro".



At that instant, the princess fell in love with the King. Il-Jin explained in detail how his brother had descended from heaven in the form of a golden egg to rule the Kingdom.

Il-Jin decided that the time had come for him to depart



"Please be careful on your journey. Please return with the King soon".



Destiny has its  
own way of making things  
fall in place. As Il-Jin was flying back,  
Princess Sriratna's parents saw a  
dream together,  
of which they could remember  
only a few images:  
...bride Sriratna,  
a ship...  
...a king  
at the sea-shore...





Rather amused and disturbed with the dream, King Padmasen and Queen Indumati, seek counsel of Sage Satyamuni.

Satyamuni: " Do not worry. Be cool and calm and supportive to her. Prepare for her new life to commence that beckons her..."  
Both of them go inside the Ashram and are stunned to see the painting of Kim Suro made by her, as he was the one they had seen receiving bride Sriratna in the dream.

King and Queen (both thinking): "Oh, god! What a coincidence!!These are happenings beyond the understanding of mortals like us."





The parents do not say anything to their daughter.  
The mother hugs Sriratna—they all knew what was  
going on in their hearts and mind.

**...the time for the Princess to sail  
on the long voyage had come...**





**King Padmasen, now a concerned father, asks  
Satyamuni**

"O great sage! How will this task be accomplished? Even though divine and gifted, for me, Sriratha is just a daughter. I worry about her safe passage to the strange lands."



"I understand well your dilemma. It only shows how much you love Sriratha. Get in touch with Queen Indumati's parents of the Chola Dynasty. They are the most astute navigators of sea, and the best in ship making. Seek their help."

**PADMASEN SENDS A MESSAGE WHICH IS  
RECEIVED BY THE CHOLA KING.**



"A message from King Padmasen? Hope everything is fine."

**"My niece Sri Ratna is going to make a  
long journey to meet  
Kim Suro.**

**We will build a massive ship  
largest we ever made  
for her"**





## II JIN REACHES BACK TO KIM SURO AND NAR- RATES HIM THE HAPPENINGS OF AYODHYA

The King was pleased.

"Let us tell Mutagan Yu-chin about the good news. She would pray for our success."

They all moved to Yu-chin's place.  
Yu-chin was pleased.



"Let's confirm it from our spirits?"

She slowly descended into a trance. After a few moments Yu-chin said,

Pungstin says "that you should not fly across the ocean. The Princess will arrive here safely."

She forbade the King to travel.  
It was decided that II-Jin will again fly to Ayodhya to persuade sage Satyamuni to permit the princess to undertake a sea voyage to reach the Kharak Kingdom.



Talhae was looking for

## THE REVENGE

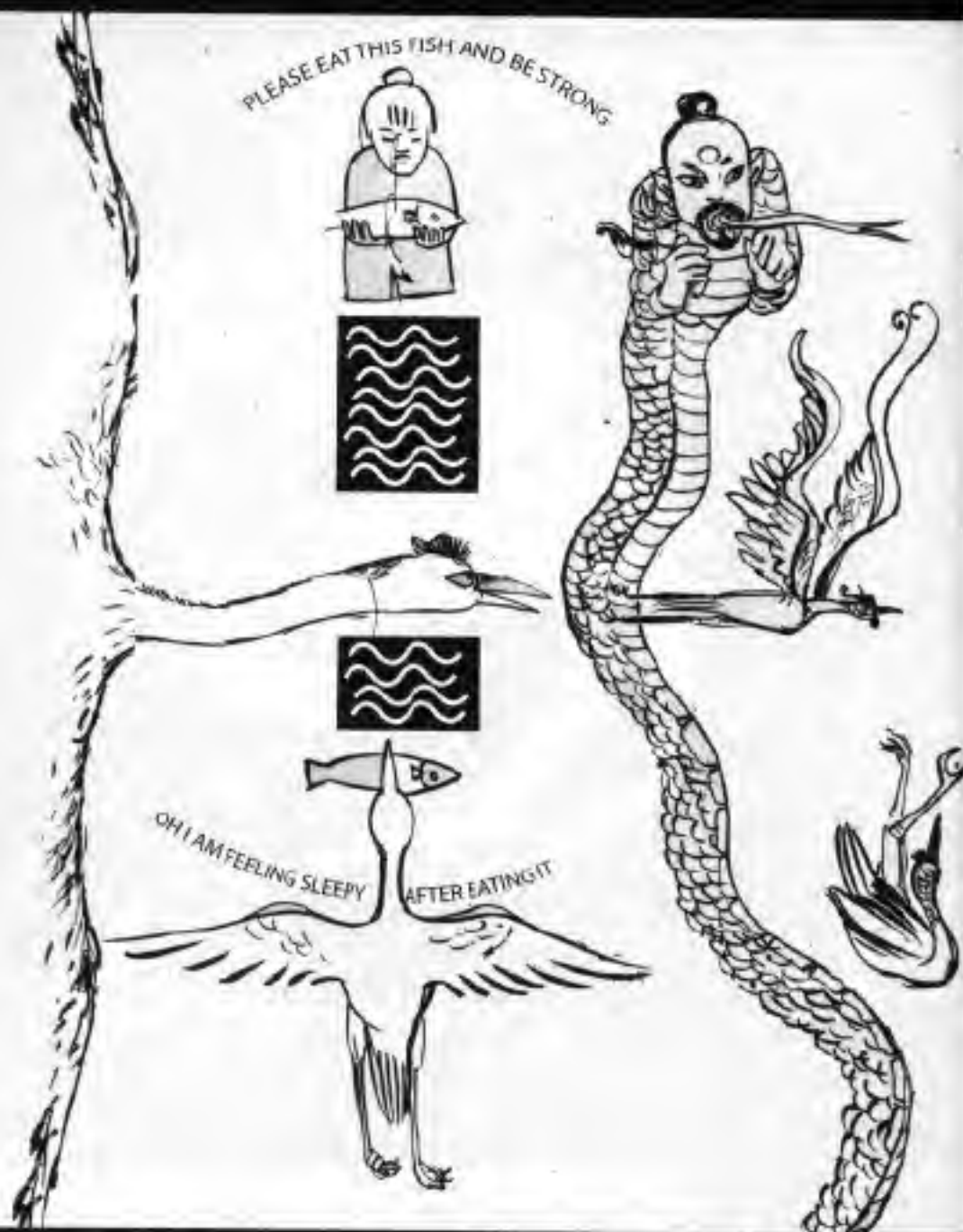


as he had not taken lightly his defeat to King Kim Suro. His spies had informed him about Kim Suro's dream and Il-Jin's departure to far off Ayodhya.



**"I will not only disrupt her journey,  
but I WILL MARRY HER."**

Il-Jin was flying fighting with a heavy wind. Suddenly the wind became calm and cool. Il-Jin was tired and hungry, he looked down and saw a small girl fishing. He landed beside her. She offered him a fish and requested him to eat.



The small girl suddenly changed into the powerful Talhae. He immediately carried Il-Jin away. He was taken to a cave, he was then tied to a huge rock. Soon after Talhae changed himself in to a majestic crane and flew towards Ayodhya.

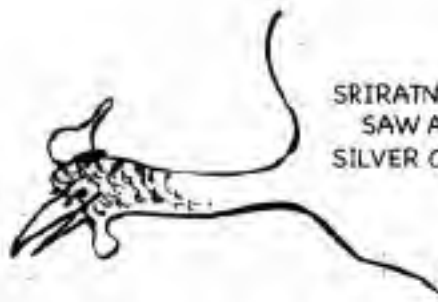


SRI RATNA WAITING FOR KIM SURO



MY GREETINGS  
TO YOU

MY MIND IS  
TELLING ME  
THAT MY KING  
WILL COME  
SOON



SRIRATNA  
SAW A  
SILVER CRANE



IT IS NOT II-JIN  
WHO IT COULD BE?  
MY RIGHT EYE IS  
TREMBLING.  
IS IT MY KING?  
I MUST GO AND TELL  
SATYAMLINI.  
MY PERENTS ARE  
PLANING MY WEDDING



NAMASTE



I HEARD A LOT  
FROM II-JIN  
HE WASN'T  
ABLE TO DESCRIBE  
YOUR BEAUTY  
YOU ARE A  
REAL BEAUTY

YOU MUST BE  
WAITING FOR ME.  
I AM ALSO IN HURRY  
II-JIN, IS ALONE  
ORGANISING  
EVERYTHING FOR  
MARRIAGE  
WE MUST  
FLY BACK  
NOW.



LET'S GO

YOU RIDE ON ME  
I WILL FLY YOU  
BACK TO  
MY COUNTRY FAST.  
BUT HURRY,  
WE HAVE TO  
FLY A LONG DISTANCE.



I AM A BIT  
NERVOUS AND  
UNCOMFORTABLE  
I HAVE TO  
INFORM MY  
GURUJI,  
AND I  
CANNOT

LEAVE WITHOUT  
THE BLESSINGS  
OF MY  
PERENTS.



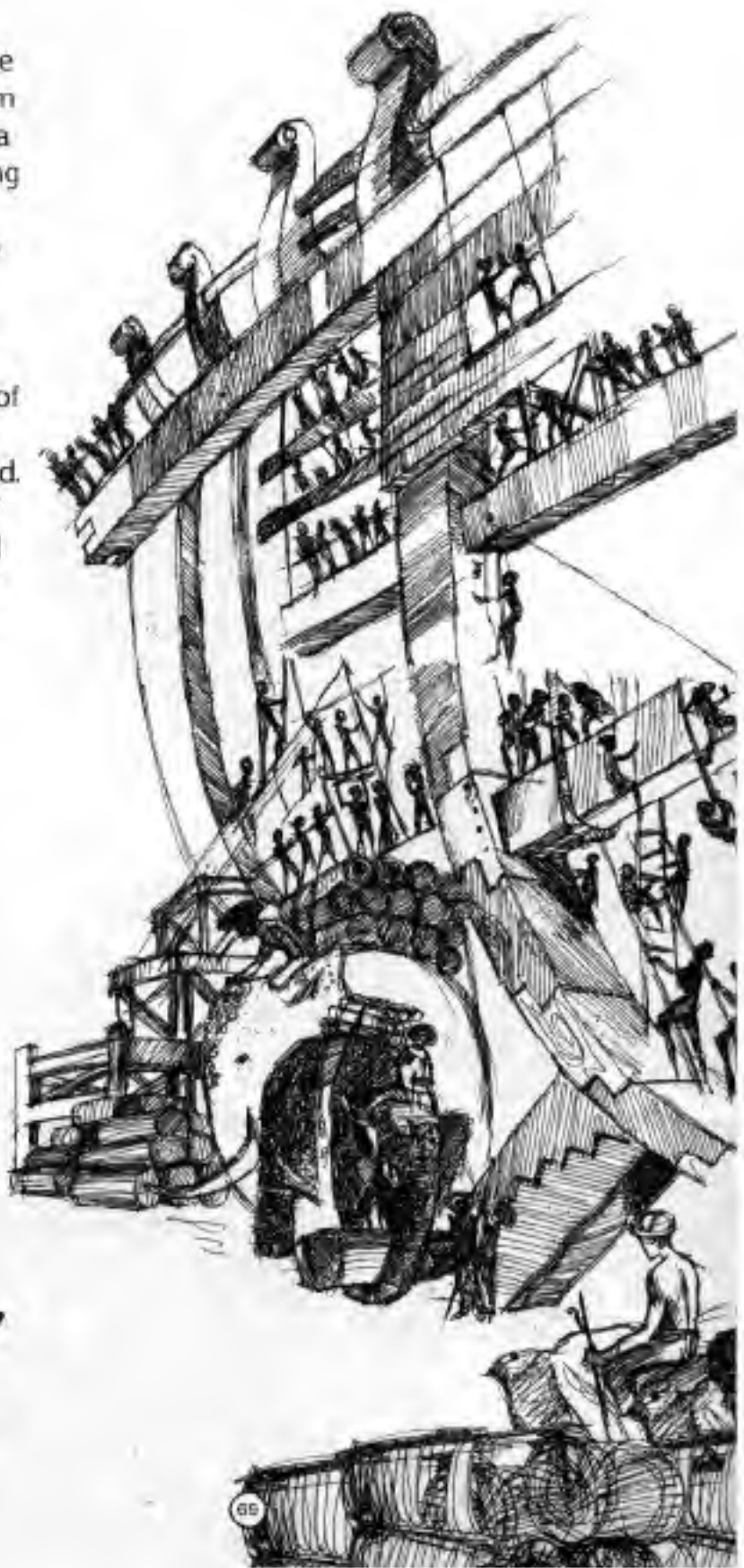
The discomfort within Sri Ratna mounted. She closed her eyes and said, "If I am a virtuous maiden, if I am the virgin princess destined to marry the divine King Kim Suro, let the crane manifest before me in its true form".

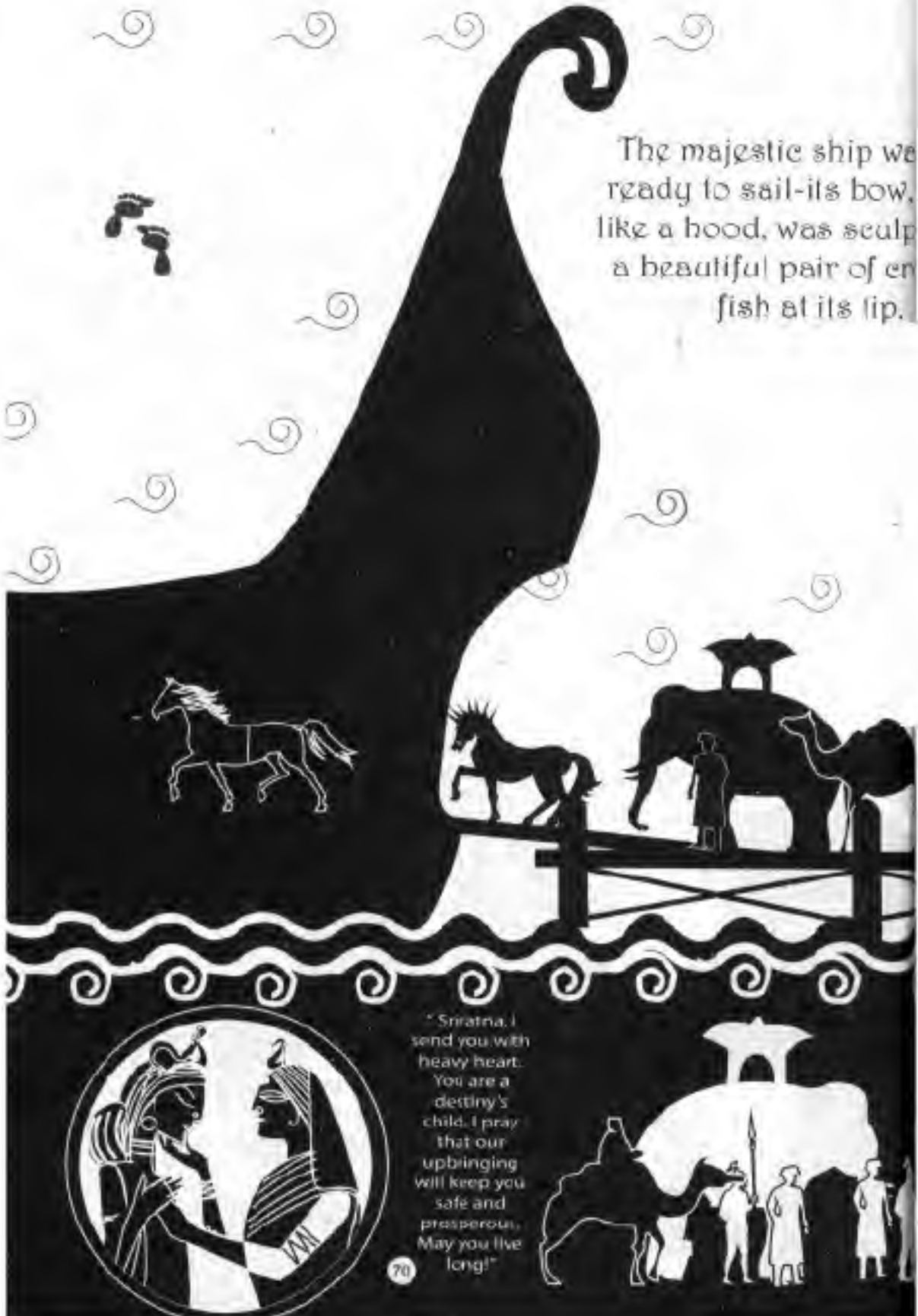


TALHAE GETS BURNED BY POWER OF SRI RATNA'S PRAYERS



Meanwhile at the Mahamallapuram port in the Chola Kingdom, the King Cholan was supervising the building of a strong and beautiful ship being made out of the best teak wood of the world, by hundreds of skilled men and women for the voyage of the princess





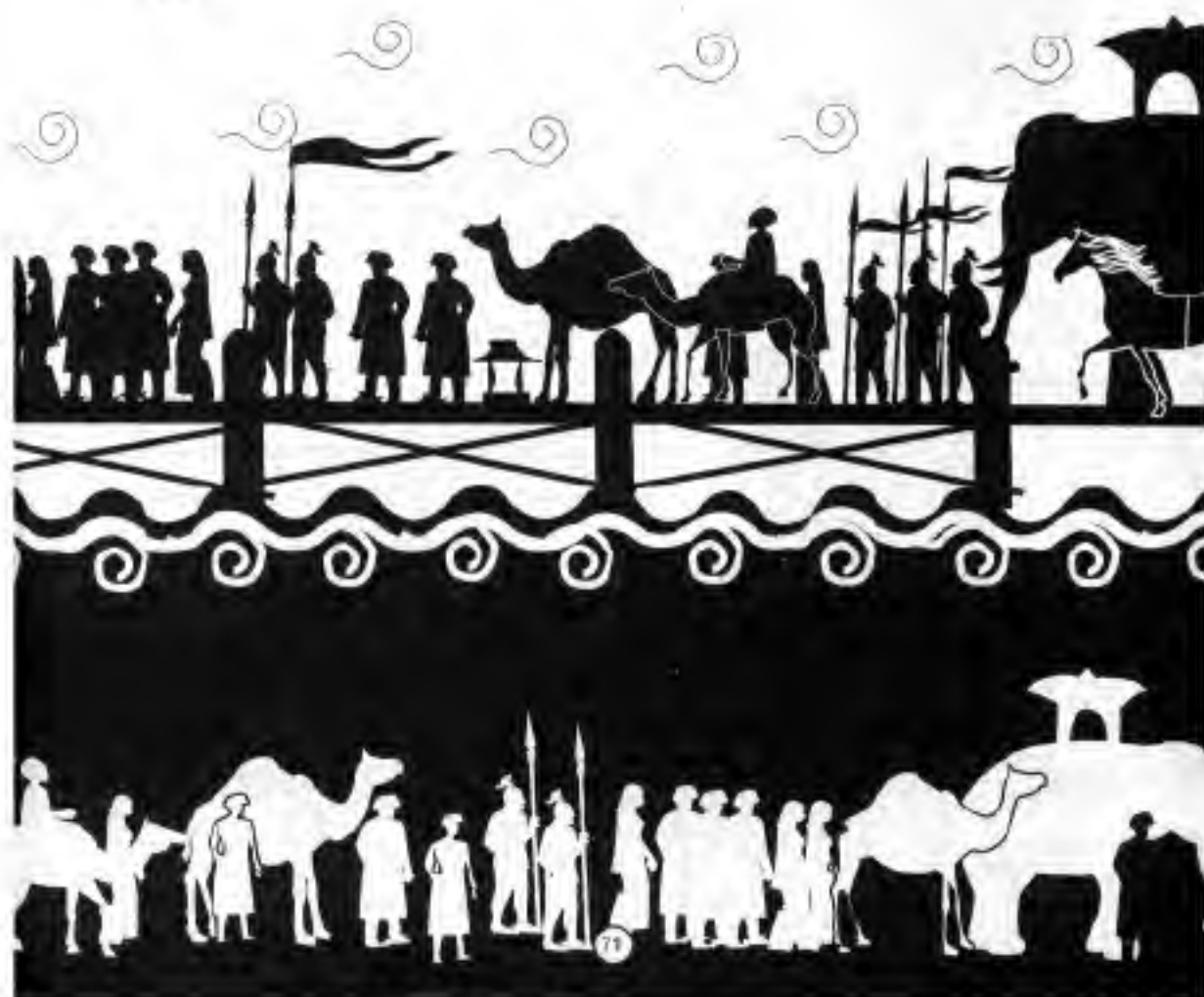
The majestic ship was  
ready to sail-its bow,  
like a hood, was sculpted  
a beautiful pair of eyes  
fish at its lip.

"Sriratna, I  
send you with  
heavy heart.  
You are a  
destiny's  
child. I pray  
that our  
upbringing  
will keep you  
safe and  
prosperous.  
May you live  
long!"

row  
ised  
like  
sent

## **SRIRATNA'S JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN**

with the brother Buddhisen  
and the royal entourage....  
Her heart palpating with faith  
and doubt, love and fear...





The King, Queen and the whole  
entourage waved to the princess  
and wished her a safe journey and  
happy life. As they kept watching  
the ship grew smaller and smaller.



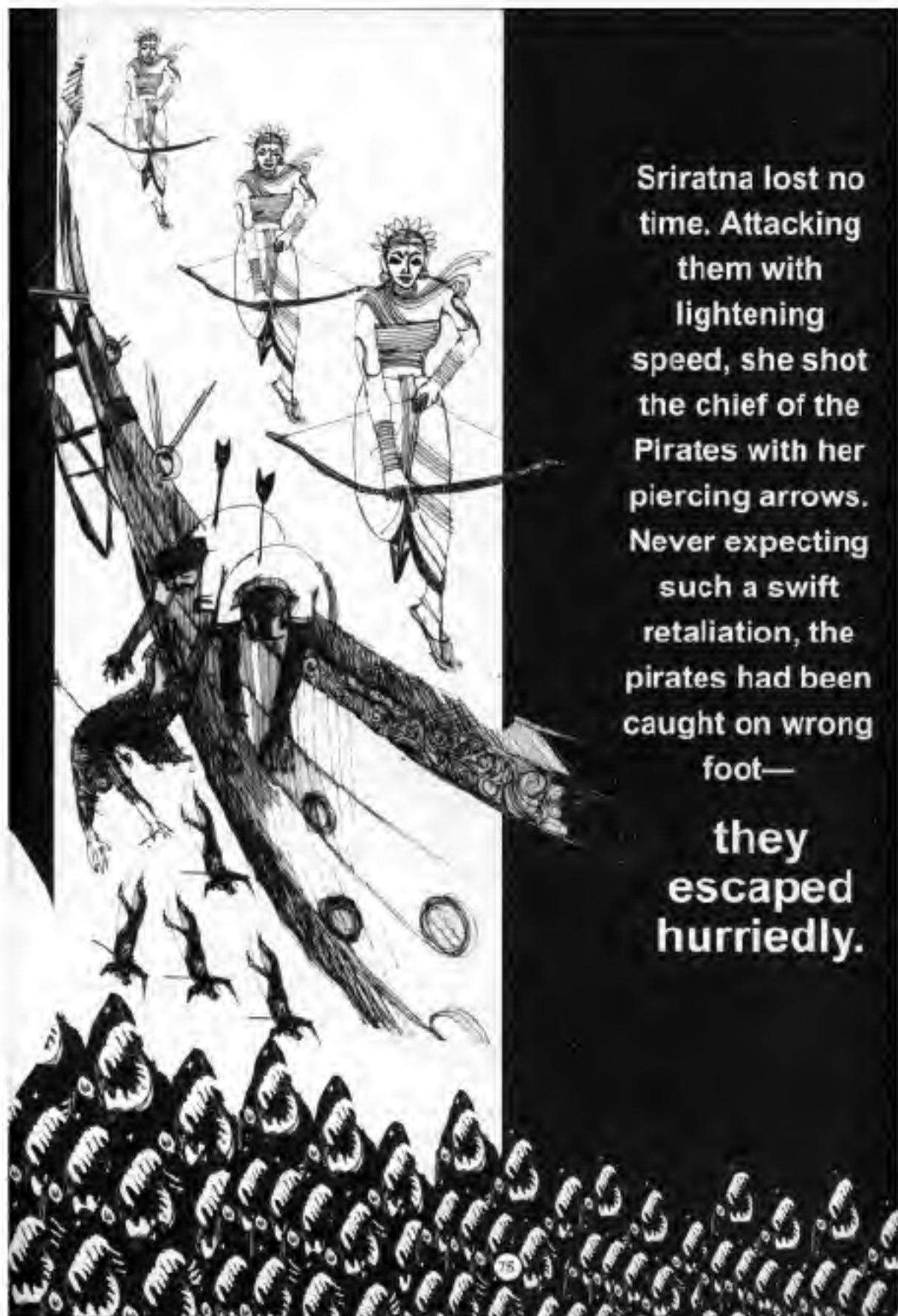
Siratna's thoughts now shaking like  
a pendulum between the memories  
of her parents and the expectations  
of meeting Kim Suro...



Deep in the sea, even though it was all calm and no storm with Buddhisen in deep meditation-- Their worst fears came true... An archer's body fell in front of them, his throat had been sliced. They were now under

# PIRATE ATTACK





Sriratna lost no time. Attacking them with lightening speed, she shot the chief of the Pirates with her piercing arrows. Never expecting such a swift retaliation, the pirates had been caught on wrong foot—

they escaped hurriedly.

For the next few days, everyone on board talked enthusiastically about the courage and skill of the princess. Despite such talk to enliven the mood, life on board had lost its excitement. The tea plant had somehow survived the heat and the cold. Every evening, Buddhisen would sit next to the Stupa and preach various sutras in simple words. However, looking at water throughout the day and getting tired under the scorching sun was not a comfortable way to spend the day. Once again everyone on ship yearned to set foot on land.









**The next day, by afternoon, they could see the shores of a beautiful island.**

**The chieftain of the island with his entourage awaited them. When he saw the princess he was elated. A variety of food they had never tasted before had been arranged. The people were friendly and hospitable.**

**BUT BUDDHISEN COULD READ THE MIND OF THE KING, "IT SEEMED AS IF THE KING WAS SECRETLY SHARPENING A WEAPON TO ATTACK".**



**At the end of the evening, the chieftain got up. The crowd fell silent. The chief announced, "I am greatly pleased at the arrival of the princess to our island. She has embarked on a long and arduous sea voyage to marry a King in a far off land. The sea voyage is fraught with difficulties. After seeing her, I have decided to bestow an honour upon her. I have decided to marry her".**

**The crowd was overjoyed. They already liked the princess.  
They wholeheartedly cheered the decision of the King.**

**Sri Ratna had not expected this. She was aghast. Monk  
BUDDHISEN stood up.**



"We are pleased at such an honour. However, marriage of the Princess with King Kim Suro is pre-ordained. We are forced to politely decline the generous offer made by the chieftain".

**The chieftain was angry. At his signal, soldiers immediately held the monk and Sri Ratna and tied them up.**

**"No one dares to orders. The choice. I coward command swordsman here. If the entourage who can with great the princess to her dreams. If they marry me and obey festivities ended in an unexpected manner.**



**disobey my princess has no am not a nor am I unfair. I Minchai, the best of my land to be there is anyone in of the princess defeat him, I will, honour, send off marry the King of lose, she has to my command". The**



# "I killed

The next morning, the whole crowd assembled again. The chieftain arrived at the arena and the princess and the monk were brought in. Their hands were still tied. They were made to sit on either side of the chieftain.

# every one

Minchai boasted. He was tall, well built and evoked fear in people.

# who ever

"Is there anyone who can defeat my swordsman Minchai", the Chieftain demanded.

"No one", the crowd roared.

# came in



Sri Ratna stood up. **"I will challenge him"**, she announced in a firm voice. A hushed silence descended on the crowd.

# my way"



Buddhisen got up and put her palm on her shoulder and made her sit down. **"On the ship I was not of any help. Let me now discharge my responsibility"** he whispered. He stepped forward and proclaimed **"I will fight him"**.

"Monk, you look like a man of god. Your job is only to pray. Have you ever held a sword in your hand", **the Chieftain queried with a derisive laughter.**



"No. I will fight him without a sword", **the Monk responded calmly.**




**The Monk entered the ring and Minchai started laughing. The monk stood there erect and took a deep breath.**



**When he started  
releasing his  
breath, the  
entire arena  
reverberated  
with the  
primordial  
sound of  
“OM”.**





He leaped down with his sword drawn to attack the monk. At lightening speed, the monk jumped on to him and wrenched the sword from his wrist and held it to his neck. The chieftain stood up and bowed before the monk. The princess, the monk and their entourage boarded their ship safely

Minchai was shouting, "I am going to butcher you like a lamb. I will chop off your neck in no time".

The monk stretched his right hand and leaped in the air. In the blink of an eye, his right foot had kicked the shin of Minchai. It was like a rock firmly striking the ground. Minchai fell back never to get up again. The fight was over in an instant. Everyone was stunned. The chieftain could not have imagined such a thing even in his wildest dream - the humiliation of his best swordsman at the hand of an unarmed monk.

All of a sudden, they could see several boats approaching their ship. Those on the boats lit torches and gave friendly gestures at the ship. Realising their intentions, the princess came out on the balcony announcing her arrival.







**THE KING HAD  
INSTRUCTED HIS  
PEOPLE TO COME  
UPTO THE  
MANGSAN-DO  
ISLAND TO  
WELCOME THE  
PRINCESS. A  
BEAUTIFUL WOODEN  
BOAT JUTTED INTO  
THE SEA.**





# **"QUEEN HUH HWANG-OK"**

**The whole crowd chanted**

At that instant, a tall, handsome man pierced through the crowd and approached the princess and said,

Sri Ratna immediately recognized the voice. It was Il-Jin.

She had never seen him before in his human form. She smiled at him.

"Princess, hope I am not a stranger"

"That's you. Here people know you by this name only."

Of course, you must be Il-Jin. But who is this Queen Hwang Huh Ok?



Il-Jin guided her and her entourage to the beautiful Royal tents nearby.





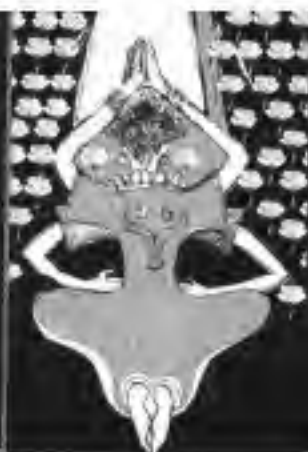
Inside the tents, Queen was given a royal bath. And she emerged out

**"My blessings are with you  
for a new life that you enter.  
Present is the most impor-  
tant time as it is the only  
time we have control over."**

**"I seek your bless-  
ings. I will remember  
your wise words."**

**"I feel relieved that  
you have reached  
your destination.  
Now I can devote  
my time for the  
good of humanity."**





Princess: "Greetings to my love!"

King: "Greetings, I welcome you to our land."

Princess: "I have left behind everything to become your life-partner."

King: "I will always be by your side—and your sacrifice will always be remembered by the people of this land. Let us join, my queen, Yu-Chin who is praying to the mountain gods for our well-being."



After Yu-Chin had prayed for the couple, Sanshin, an elderly man with his silvery white hair tied in a top knot, performed the marriage rituals with the blessings of gods in the heaven.



BUDDHISEN PLACES  
HIS SISTER'S HANDS  
IN KIM SURO'S

THEY DRINK HOLY  
WATER FROM  
GOLDEN CUP

THEY ARE NOW  
A MARRIED  
COUPLE





**I remember my  
brother's wise  
words-present is  
the most  
important  
time**



**I will try to  
keep the  
thoughts of  
past as a  
thing of  
past**



**Sanshin: "You two  
responsibilities to  
the people, the  
rivers—every living or  
up to you now. You both  
prosperity to this land for  
has kindly descended to be the Queen here"**

**have greater  
shoulder. This land,  
mountains and the  
non-living being— look  
have to bring peace and  
which the Princess of Ayodhya**

**"You will be free of  
any human  
disease—live and  
work for improving  
the life of your  
people as long as  
you can or wish to!"**





Sriratna remembered her mother's blessings to live long. She controlled her emotions and prepared to transform her life—from a girl to a woman, from a Princess to a Queen.



In the place where Sanshin stood, they could see a procession of snow-white ducks emerging from a nearby pond. Queen Huh felt attracted and picked up a duck to admire. King Kim Suro also picked up another duck and they both brought the pair of ducks home.

Queen Huh was loved by everyone. She quickly took charge of the royal household. The King adored her. Monk Yogananda had completed his responsibilities and broken the last link of his previous life cycle of his attachment to the family.

I am destined to spend the rest of my life in that place which is already sanctified by the spiritual energy of Lord Buddha".

Life in the Kingdom was peaceful. The rains were normal and the people were able to grow adequate food for a good living. The King and the Queen took personal interest in educating their people in etiquette and good behavior. The Queen opened the chests which was full of gold coins and jewelry. She requested that the gold be used for the development of the Kingdom.

A number of schools were started for teaching fine arts and artisans and blacksmiths doubled their efforts with greater enthusiasm.





The King praised the Queen and said " The Queen left her parents and her land to fulfill the will of the God of Heaven. After such great sacrifices how can her name be forgotten. It is my wish that the next two sons of ours would inherit their mother's name into future generations". Everyone applauded Kim Suro's decision. Yu-chin said, " My King, your decision is wise. Three of your sons will carry forward generations of Kim and Huh".

"Yu-chin, you are only talking of my three sons. What about the others", the Queen joked.

"My Queen the rainbow has seven colours, music has seven notes, the week has seven days and your seven sons are different but form one entity. They will all follow their uncle and achieve enlightenment. They will contribute to the benefit of the mankind".

The King consoled her, "My Queen everything in this world is preordained. You are the best example. Let us accept fate and do our best" The Queen understood.







# GOOD NEWS IS ON THE WAY

King is coming! Queen is coming!



Tell  
Matugan  
about  
your  
dream

Good News  
you are  
going to be  
mother of a  
beautiful  
child

I saw a dream  
last night  
"a bear entered  
in my room and  
disappeared"  
what is the  
meaning of it?

Oh ! that's a  
real good news  
a, beautiful  
daughter like her



**Manikkam,  
the merchant, who had  
accompanied came up with a  
proposal to produce swords like  
the ones Sriratna had brought  
from Ayodhya**



**I HAVE A PLAN FOR BUSINESS  
FRIENDSHIP & PROSPERITY**





"Dear Queen,  
hope you remem-  
ber this master  
craft".



"Yes, I do. And your  
proposal seems interest-  
ing and beneficial for  
everybody."

### The Sword Competition

On the advice of  
Manikkam,  
the King sent invitations  
to all the neighbouring  
countries  
for a sword fight  
competition.

Kim Suru also requested  
All the Kings to come and  
be the judges in the  
competition.

Showmanship in archery  
and horse riding delighted  
the guests.

But what surprised and  
enthralled them,  
was the art of unarmed  
combat taught by Monk  
Buddhisen

who was now known  
as Monk Jangyuhwasang.

All his disciples  
demonstrated tremendous  
physical and spiritual energy  
and their ability to defend  
themselves against armed  
opponents made them the  
favorites of the guests.

\*\*\*1000 gold coins\*\*\*

\*The Best Swordsman\*



"I have been adjudged the winner of the competition not necessarily because of my superior skills but the victory is mainly due to



the 'magic sword' of the Gaya kingdom. I request my King to distribute the 1,000 gold pieces equally among all the participants".



Everyone agreed that the competition was a great success in strengthening the friendship with other Kingdoms. More importantly everyone wanted to buy in large quantities, the swords and armour made by Kharak craftsmen. The king appreciated Manikkam for his idea to popularise the swords from his Kingdom.

WE  
NEED YOUR  
FRIENDSHIP

You are  
most  
welcome





**Kings and traders from far off places started to come with offers of friendship and business leading to the prosperity of Gaya Kingdom**



The devious Talhae was biding his time. He had been humiliated by the Princess. He decided to make a surprise attack on the Gaya Kingdom. There were one hundred of his boats ready and scattered in different hideouts. On a bright sunny day, all his boats moved in unison to attack Gungwang Gaya. As the boats came closer they could see Talhae leading them. The King was shocked.



WHERE ARE THESE BOATS COMING FROM? LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE GOING TO ATTACK KIM SURO'S KINGDOM. THEY HAVE TO FIGHT WITH US FIRST TO SHOW OUR FRIENDSHIP.

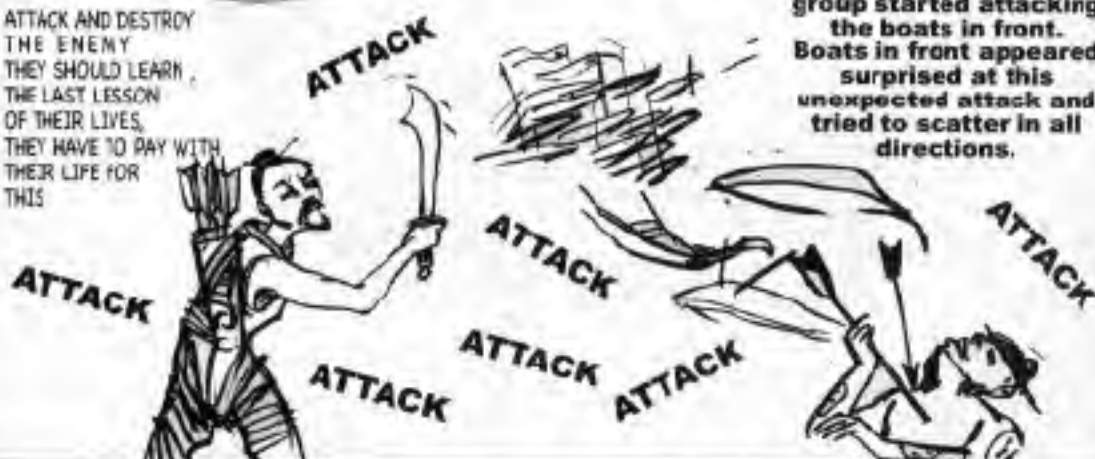


LET THEM COME BROTHER. WE WILL TAKE CARE WELL.

"THOUSANDS BOATS? THEY SEEM SO REVENGEFUL. LET US BE ON GUARD!"



ATTACK AND DESTROY THE ENEMY. THEY SHOULD LEARN THE LAST LESSON OF THEIR LIVES. THEY HAVE TO PAY WITH THEIR LIFE FOR THIS.



Then suddenly, the boats from the rear group started attacking the boats in front. Boats in front appeared surprised at this unexpected attack and tried to scatter in all directions.

All the boats of Talhae were either destroyed or deserted. A yellow dragon lifted him up and carried him far away.



PLEASE  
FORGIVE  
ME , I PROMISE  
I WILL NEVER  
LOOK BACK  
TOWARDS  
THIS  
COUNTRY

WHO ARE YOU?  
HOW DARE TO ATTACK  
MY GODLY FRIEND  
KIM SURO'S KINGDOM?  
I WILL PUNISH  
YOU , I WILL CHOP  
YOUR HEAD, AND  
WILL PRESENT  
IT TO KING  
KIM.

"You were the  
one who told  
me that I  
would be a  
King. Why did  
you deceive  
and humiliate  
me.

"You are still to be a  
King. But King Suro is  
divine. Go to Silla King-  
dom and live a normal  
life."

Talhae gave up his enmity of King Suro and went to live in Silla Kingdom. He soon prospered as a merchant of armaments between Gaya and Silla Kingdoms.

The King of Silla, Nam Hea, appreciated Talhae's intelligence and courage.

He also liked Talhae's helpful attitude towards the poor. After careful consideration, he invited Talhae and offered his daughter in marriage.



King Nam Hea,  
thank you so much  
for considering me  
I will give my life,  
for this country



My Dear Talhae  
I am very pleased  
for whatever you  
have done for the  
people of this  
country.



I offer you my  
relation to you, will you please marry  
my only daughter, and become  
the King of this country,  
I am old, and not too well, I want to  
go to mountain, and spend my remaining days  
remembering God, I am sure  
you will be a fine King.

# THIRTY YEARS PASSED

THREE SONS OF KING KIM SURO & QUEEN DISCUSS

Father has given me  
a big assignment,  
I will require support of both of you.

My Steel  
Exporting project  
with Bharatvarsa is  
almost over. Within a  
month's time I will be  
joining you.



I am very  
interested, to  
work on the  
new project



My queen, are you talking  
about our other seven  
sons? They are busy  
building much bigger  
kingdom-kingdom of  
wisdom, knowledge, and  
peace, they are destined to  
do so, you should be  
proud and happy for them.

I understand your feelings, even I  
will tell you not to go, be strong.  
But you are a mother too, I will not  
stop you from going there.

Oh my King, our elder son  
Kodung (The Crown Prince)  
has grown up, two of his  
brothers are also working very  
hard for the country with him,  
they have their new vision, and  
they will be able to take this  
country into a new era,  
But what about others?



I know, but I am a mother  
too, I want to visit them once, I  
know My brother and your  
brother Il-Jin will discourage me  
to visit them, but I will try, please  
give me the permission.

One day when Talhae was hunting in the Tohamsan forest his footmen informed him that they had seen a Golden Egg in a cave nearby. Talhae recognized it and immediately sent a message to King Suro.

"Your Majesty, I have found your long lost brother. I am at the forest guarding the golden egg. Come and meet him". King Suro knew that Talhae was now the popular King of Silla. He hurried to the forest. When they brought the egg out of the cave, as soon as the sun rays fell, the egg broke and the brother of King Suro emerged and grew into a handsome man. King named him Kim Alji. Talhae and Kim Suro became trusted friends.





# Death of Yu-chin

Yu-chin had a contended life. She had the intuition that it was the last spring season of her life. She went to the Palace. The Queen was surprised to see Yu-chin so early in the morning. Yu-chin sat close to the Queen. "Oh my Queen, You have been like a mother and a friend to me all these years. I have come to see you before my departure to the other world". The Queen understood. "When we do meet again"? She queried.

"Mutagans will continue to be an important part of our people's lives as long as Heaven and Earth exist. Millennia later, you and I will be reborn, we are destined to meet", Yu-chin was emotional.

The Queen held her hands and prayed to the Lord of Heaven. Yu-chin's hands slowly slipped out of her hands.



**Queen missed her seven children and her longing for them grew stronger by the day. One day she could not resist the urge, she reached Beom wang ri and found her brother Jangyouhwasang.**

"I knew you would come to see them. But, your presence could impede their efforts in achieving their goal early. As a mother, you would not like to come in the way of their success. Please return to the Palace",



"But I am their mother I want to see them from a distance but I will not disturb them"

"I have now recalled all the imprints of your seven sons and drawn it into the pond. You can sit close by and see their activities as a reflection mirrored by the water of sacred Yog Ji Pond. My disciples will not be disturbed and your wish is fulfilled"

**The monk reflected for a while and asked her to follow him. They reached the Yog Ji Pond. Jangyouhwasang raised both his hands and drew in the spiritual energy and directed it to the water.**



The Queen knelt on the edge of the pond and leaned forward. soon the surface became like a mirror and the Queen could see Jangyouhwasang walking up the Jirisan tailed by his seven disciples. Her face brightened up. As she kept watching she could see her children meditate with great focus.



Time passed quickly. Kodung had assumed most of the responsibilities. The Queen had now seen one hundred and fifty nine monsoons. Her intellect still remained sharp.

"I think my time has come to depart from this world"



"I have also come to the same conclusion. We shall depart together", King concurred.

"It is inauspicious for a woman to become a widow. That is what my parents believed. Grant me the wish that I should die before you. I only beg that you be my husband in my next lives", the Queen pleaded.

The next full moon day the Queen got up early, bathed in the hot spring and wore the costume that she had worn on the day of her marriage to Kim Suro. Dressed like a bride, she sought her husband's permission to leave. The King lifted her up, held her close to his heart and a warm tear fell on her cheek. The Queen sighed. The King tenderly lifted her chin to look at her. Her soul had departed.



The King moved to Kujibong. He setup a small hermitage and led a frugal life. A decade later, he also took leave from the earthly life-- having made his Kingdom powerful and prosperous with his Queen from Ayodhya.



## **SRIRATNA & KIM SURO**

The Legend of an Indian Princess in Korea

© Story: N. Parthasarathi  
© Graphics and Illustrations: Soumitra Dasgupta  
© This Edition: National Book Trust, India

### **Credits**

Page Artworks: Shailen Bardhan  
Lettering: Kalyan H Wong  
Photoshop Work and Cover Design: Soumitra Dasgupta  
Dialogues and Screenplay: Kumar Vikram and Soumitra Dasgupta  
Creative Planning Support: Anurag Dasgupta  
Production: G. Rengarajan

Series: Young India Library  
ISBN: 978-81-237-6835-9  
₹ 110.00  
Overseas Market: \$10

Published by Director, National Book Trust, India  
'Nehru Bhawan', 5, Institutional Area, Phase-II  
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110 070  
91-11-26707700 (Board)  
E-mail: [director@nbtindia.org.in](mailto:director@nbtindia.org.in)  
[www.nbtindia.gov.in](http://www.nbtindia.gov.in)

Printed at Pushpak Press (P) Ltd., New Delhi



#### PARTHASARATHI

a 30 year veteran of the Indian Diplomatic Corps, served as Ambassador of India to the Republic of South Korea from 2006 to 2008.

He has served as a diplomat in embassies throughout the world, including in Belgium, Bangkok, Pakistan, United Kingdom and Syria. Parthasarathi has also worked in New Delhi for the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs's Department of Economic Affairs.

He graduated as a mechanical engineer from Mysore University and earned an MBA and postgraduate diploma in industrial management from Bangalore University in India.

Parthasarathi's hobbies include writing, spirituality, golf and bridges. He has published two books: *The Reluctant Assassin*, a fictional thriller, and *Si Dan Rheng Hwa*, a fictional novel telling the ancient history of India and Korea.

He is married to Smt. Geeta Parthasarathi. They have two daughters.



#### SHARVAT & SHARVAT

has worked in the creative departments of leading advertising agencies in India & abroad, serving various brands.

He has worked extensively with television channels like the Indian version of *Sesame Street*.

(Galligan Sir Sir) and a few national design firms, among others, he has also done the production design for the feature film *Omkaaram* (2006).

A member of The Film Writers Association, Mumbai. He is also an avid hobbyist, graphics artist and a fine artist. He has had several solo exhibitions of his works. But designing for film is his passion. His hobbies include virtual traveling, and watching food shows.

(this book is a gift to my grand son, Sharvin)

Overseas Market

₹ 110.00



ISBN 9788176251414

Overseas Market \$ 10

